

Fort Riley,  
Building # 219  
219 Huebner Road  
Fort Riley  
Riley County  
Kansas

HABS No. KS-54-0

HABS  
KANS,  
81-FORIL,  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. KS-54-0

FORT RILEY, BUILDING # 219

Location: 219 Huebner Road, Fort Riley, Riley County, Kansas  
USGS Junction City Quadrangle, Universal Transverse  
Mercator coordinates: 14.693845.4327.080

Present Owner: U.S. Department of the Army

Present Occupant: Capt. Keitel and family

Present Use: Family officers quarters

Significance: Building # 219 is significant as the structure built specifically for the Fire Chief at fort Riley. It was one of the few residences built for civilian personnel. According to the Current Fire Chief, Quarters # 219 was supposedly built to house the fire Chief directly on post, as opposed to neighboring Junction City where he had been previously located, so that he could be in close proximity in case of fire. It was built from salvage materials from the construction of Camp Funston. These factors all help explain why only one of this type of residence was constructed at Fort Riley. Its Bungalow design is unique to the fort, but not to the civilian architecture of the area dating from this period. Hence, it is an example of local, civilian architectural influence at Fort Riley. Architecturally, Building # 219 is a fine example of the simple Bungalow. It displays many of the distinguishing elements of that style, which was tremendously popular nationwide during the early twentieth century. In addition, its concrete block construction exemplifies the use of the new, man-made building materials initiated by the machine age of the early twentieth century.

PART I: HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1925 is the erection date given on the Real Property Cards and in the Engineer's Historical Record Book, Directorate of Engineering and Housing (DEH), Fort Riley, Kansas. Also, the architectural drawings for this structure are dated, May 1925.
2. Architect: Unknown. According to the Engineer's Historical Record Book, under the heading "O.Q.M.C. Plan No." it reads, "Local," suggesting a local architect and/or design rather than army issued quartermaster drawings.

3. Original and subsequent owner: U.S. Department of War, since 1947 known as, U.S. Department of the Army.
  4. Builder, contractor, suppliers:
    - a. Builder: Building # 219 was built by the U.S. Department of War to house Fort Riley's Fire Chief, Martin McGuire, a civilian personel.
    - b. Contractor: Unknown.
    - c. Suppliers: Building # 219 was built from salvage materials from the construction of Camp Funston, Fort Riley (Engineer's Historical Record Book).
  5. Original plans and construction: From the exterior, Building # 219 appears as it was in both the circa. 1930 photograph and on the May 1925 drawings at D.E.H. (see Supplemental Materials # 1- # 4). Building # 219 cost nothing to build since it was constructed of salvage material, according to the Engineer's Historical Record Book, D.E.H. This also suggests that perhaps it was built by army personnel since no labor cost, etc. was mentioned.
  6. Alterations and additions: No alterations have been made to the exterior, according to the plans, with the exception of the rear porch which appears in drawings and is now a frame enclosure. It is of vertical board construction, one bay by one bay, resting on concrete piers and has a shed roof sloping off the roof of the main structure. This enclosure appears on the circa. 1930. photograph. Inside only minor changes have been made to the main story. The only apparent structural change is the elimination of the front entry hall, enlarging the front room, and a replacement wall with a large doorway adjoining the two east side rooms (now, living and dining rooms). Also, the entry to the front bedroom off this hall was removed. The plans for this "proposed remodeling" were made in June of 1966 (D.E.H). In addition, the kitchen and bathroom have been modernized.
- B. Historical Context: Building # 219 was built specifically for the Fort Riley Fire Chief and was one of the few structures on post built to house civilian personnel. It was necessary to construct quarters for the Fire Chief so that he could be within close proximity in the case of fire on post. Building # 219 was built for fire Chief, Martin McGuire. He and his family were, thus, the first to live here. Since it was built for a person of specific job for which there was only one postion on post, there was only one of its type constructed at Fort Riley. In fact, Building # 219 was built in 1925, a decade when very little construction took place at Fort Riley.

PART II: ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Building # 219 is of interest as a fine example of the popular Bungalow style of the early twentieth century. It displays all the distinguishing characteristics of the Bungalow including one or one and a half stories, front facing gable roof, bracketed overhanging eaves, etc. In addition, the use of concrete block is indicative of the machine age of the early twentieth century. With it came the new man-made building materials, opening up new possibilities in construction and design. Concrete block was molded to look like stone but was more affordable and could be manufactured on site. Interestingly, the smooth-faced treatment of the concrete block in the case of Building # 219, along with the thin application of the mortar, causes it to somewhat resemble the early hand hewn stone structures at Fort Riley. In addition, the red brick quions around the windows and doorways provides a pleasing contrast to the light colored concrete, setting off the detailing. Bungalows like Building # 219 enjoyed tremendous popularity nationally in civilian architecture of this period, and in that sense it is an example of local, civilian influence.
2. Condition of fabric: The structure appears to be sound and in good, well maintained condition, particularly from the exterior.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Building # 219 is a single story structure with a three bay by three bay main block and a two bay by one bay rear wing. It is a rectangularly shaped residence, twenty-six and a half feet wide and thirty-nine and a half feet deep. The attic provides a low, open storage space. The basement has been partially excavated, from the rear.
2. Foundations: The foundation is made of concrete blocks, eleven and a half inches thick. It is two blocks thick at the base, resting on three inches of poured concrete.
3. Walls: The walls are made of smooth-faced concrete block, eleven and a half inches thick. It is two blocks thick at the base, resting on three inches of poured concrete.
4. Structural systems and framing: The walls are load bearing concrete block. The floor and partition walls rest on frame joists and beams.

5. Porches: A porch, resting on a concrete base with a patterned red brick floor, runs the length of the facade. It has a shed roof sloping off the roof of the main block, with exposed rafters in the front and side eaves. The porch is supported by four, round, metal posts resting on a course of concrete blocks which in turn rests on alternately spaced concrete blocks (See HABS photo # KS-54-O-1 & 2).
6. Chimneys: There is a square, brick, center, replacement chimney located where the main block meets the rear, hipped roof section (See HABS photo # KS-54-O-3).
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: There are red brick quoins in alternating groupings of headers and stretchers around the doorways, front and rear (See HABS photo # KS-54-O-1). The facade entry has a stained glass transom, with a blue background with a big, red "1" on it. The lintel above is made of red brick headers. The door is a solid post World War II door with two horizontal lights in the top.
  - b. Windows: The typical windows on Building # 219 are six over six sash with the same brick quoin surrounds as appear in the doorways, with rows of brick headers for the lintels and sills (See HABS photo # KS-54-O-1). On the northeastern side elevation there are three bays on the main block and a fourth on the rear, hipped roof section. The third bay back is a paired window, with a single surround (See HABS photo # KS-54-O-2). There are also at this elevation three, small, rectangular three light casement, basement windows, one under each of the three windows on the main block. On the southwestern side elevation there are two bays on the main block and one in the rear section, all symmetrically balanced (See HABS photo # KS-54-O-4). There are two basement windows, one under each window in the main block. In the gable ends at both side elevations are two, small, rectangular, two vertical light casement windows. To the rear, on the northeastern end is a rear entry addition. To the other side of it is another rear entry and then, one typical bay with a basement window underneath it (See HABS photo # KS-54-O-4).
8. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: The roof of the main block is a low pitched gable roof. The roof of the rear section is hipped. The shed roof of the rear entry section is a continuation of the roof of the rear wing. They are covered with composition shingles (See HABS photos # KS-54-O-3 & 4).

- b. Cornice, eaves: The main block has an overhanging roof with four triangular brackets (two per side) in the eaves in each gable end (See HABS photo # KS-54-O-2 & 4). The cornice is a plain wooden band. The rear section has an overhanging roof with exposed rafters in the sides and gable end.
- c. Dormers: There is one, low shed roof dormer on the facade, with an overhanging roof with exposed rafters in the front. It has two, three light casement windows. Wooden shingles cover the front and side walls.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Building # 219 enters into the living room on the eastern side of the house. Behind it is the dining room, connected by a open doorway. Behind the dining room is the kitchen with the back entry addition to the far wall and the door to the basement on the western wall near the back door. To the western side of the dining room is a doorway into the hall running southeast to northwest. At the front, southeastern end of the hall is a bedroom. To the northwest side wall of the hall before the bedroom is a linen closet (door removed). To the northwest side of that across from the doorway to the dining room is the bathroom. At the northwest end of the hall is another bedroom (See HABS photo # KS-54-O-5). The attic is open storage space, as is the partial basement. Off the rear of the kitchen is a one bay by one bay, shed roof, frame entry addition. There is a six light casement window to each side elevation and a wooden, five horizontal panel door. The entry section rests on concrete block piers.
2. Stairways: There is a closed, curved landing stairway from the first floor to the open attic. There is a plain, open wooden stair to the basement with a landing near the top with a back door.
3. Flooring: The flooring throughout is narrow, yellow pine with a clear varnish, except in the kitchen and bath where there is linoleum tile.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls in the living room, dining room, and kitchen are plaster, painted white. There is wall board, framed with narrow battens in the hall and bedrooms. There is no decorative detailing.
5. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The doorways have only plain, wide band surrounds (See HABS photo # KS-54-O-5). There is a wide,

approximately five foot, doorway between the living and dining rooms. The doors throughout are wooden, five horizontal panel doors (See HABS photo # KS-54-0-5).

- b. Windows: The windows, like the doorways, are framed with plain, wide boards with flat, extending sills.
- 6. Decorative features and trim: The baseboards are plain, wide boards with a fillet along the floor.
- 7. Hardware: The door knobs and rectangular plates throughout the house are plain, unornamented brass.
- 8. Mechanical equipment: Building # 219 is heated by a "Burnham American" steam heating system, with radiators throughout house.
- D. Site: Building # 219 faces southwest onto Huebner Road, which is the main road through Fort Riley, becoming Rt. 18 at Ogden. It sits off the road by itself to the south of a grouping of family officer's quarters (see Supplemental Material # 5). It was, however, the only structure in this immediate area at the time of its construction.

### PART III: SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural Drawings: See Part I, section 5.
- B. Early Views: There is a circa. 1930 photograph of Building # 219 in the Engineer's historical Record Book, D.E.H.
- C. Bibliography:
  - 1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Engineer's Historical Record Book, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, Fort Riley, Kansas.

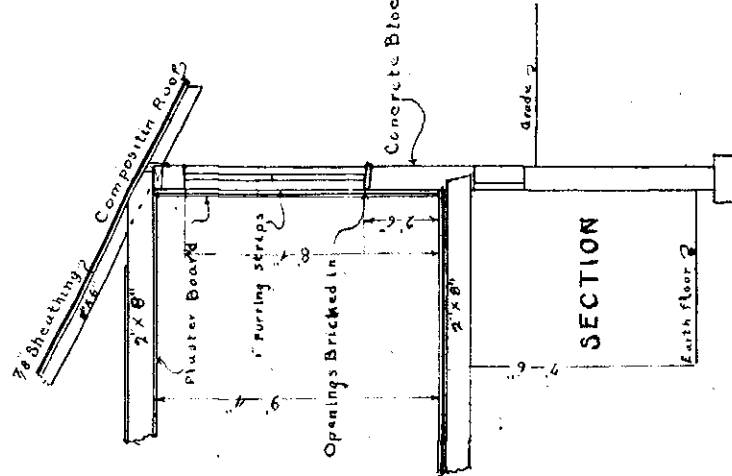
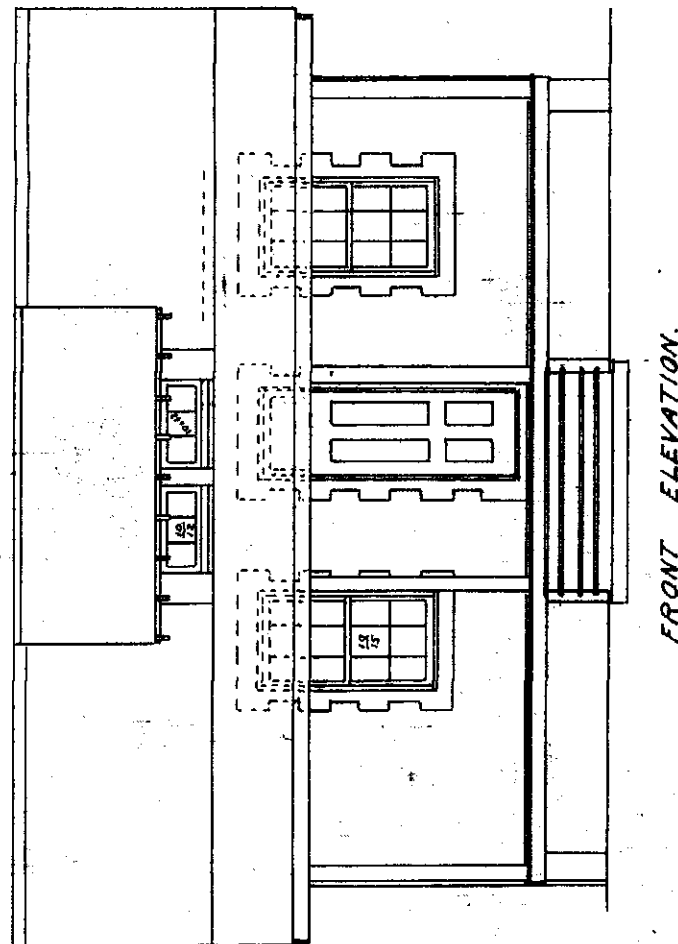
Real Property Cards, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, Fort Riley, Kansas.

Prepared by:

Catherine Crawford  
Historian  
Historic American Buildings Survey  
Summer 1985

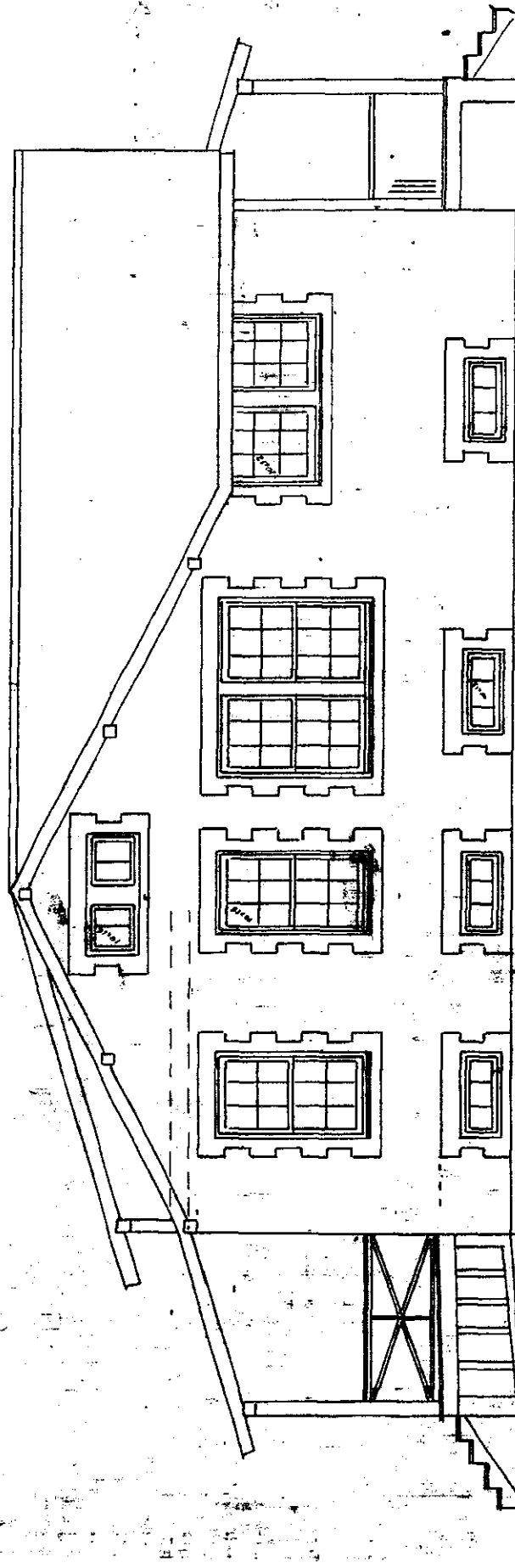
D. Supplemental Information  
1. Front Elevation

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4 SHEETS, PLAN OF  
SHEET #4, U File A2-14  
QUARTERS FOR FIRE CHIEF.  
FORT RILEY, KANSAS. Bldg. #219  
OFFICE OF CONSTRUCTING QUARTERMASTER.  
May, 1925. Scale: 1/4"=1'-0"

2. Side Elevation

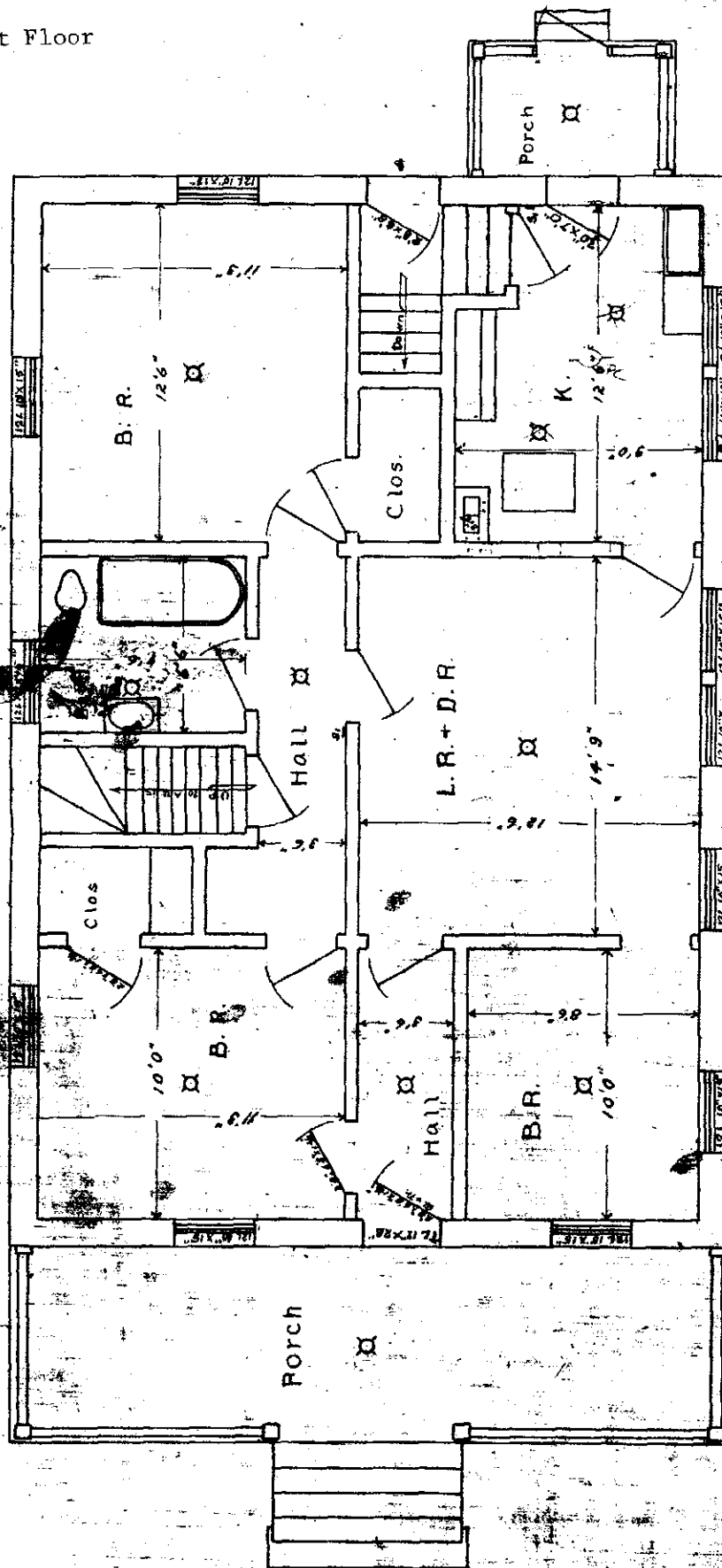


SIDE ELEVATION.

4 SHEETS, PLAN OF SHEET 3, V. File A26-14  
QUARTERS FOR FIRE CHIEF. Bldg. 219.  
FORT RILEY, KANSAS.  
OFFICE OF CONSTRUCTING QUARTERMASTER,  
May, 1925.  
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

3. First Floor

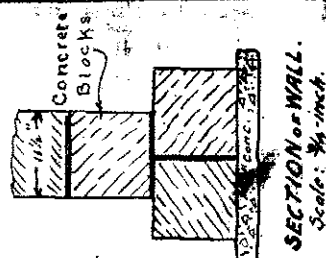
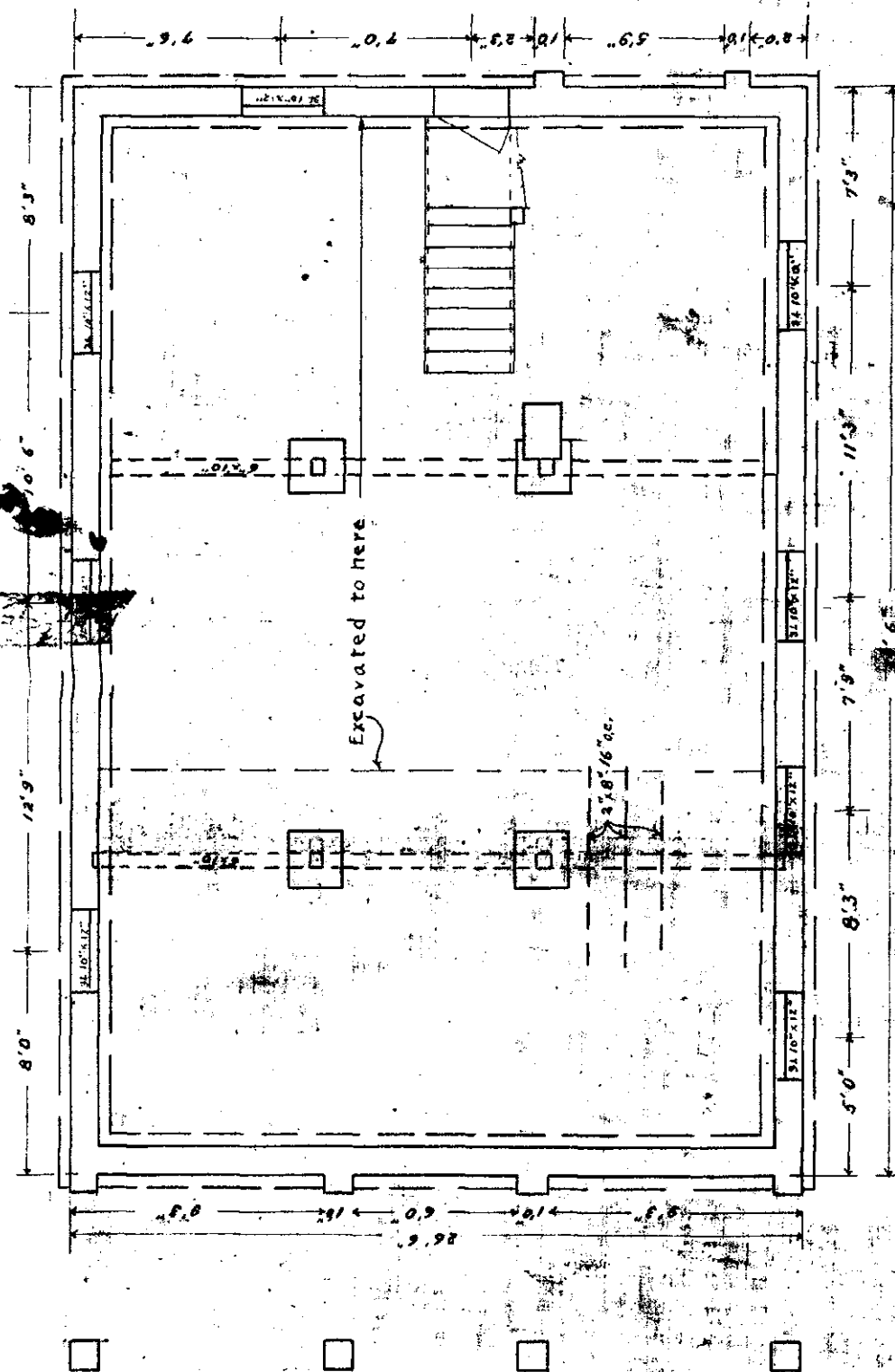
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FIRST FLOOR PLAN.

4 SHEETS PLAN OF SHEET #2, U File A2, 114  
QUARTERS FOR FIRE CHIEF.  
FORT RILEY, KANSAS. Bldg. #219  
OFFICE OF CONSTRUCTING QUARTERMASTER.  
Nov. 1925. QUARTERS #219  
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

4. Basement

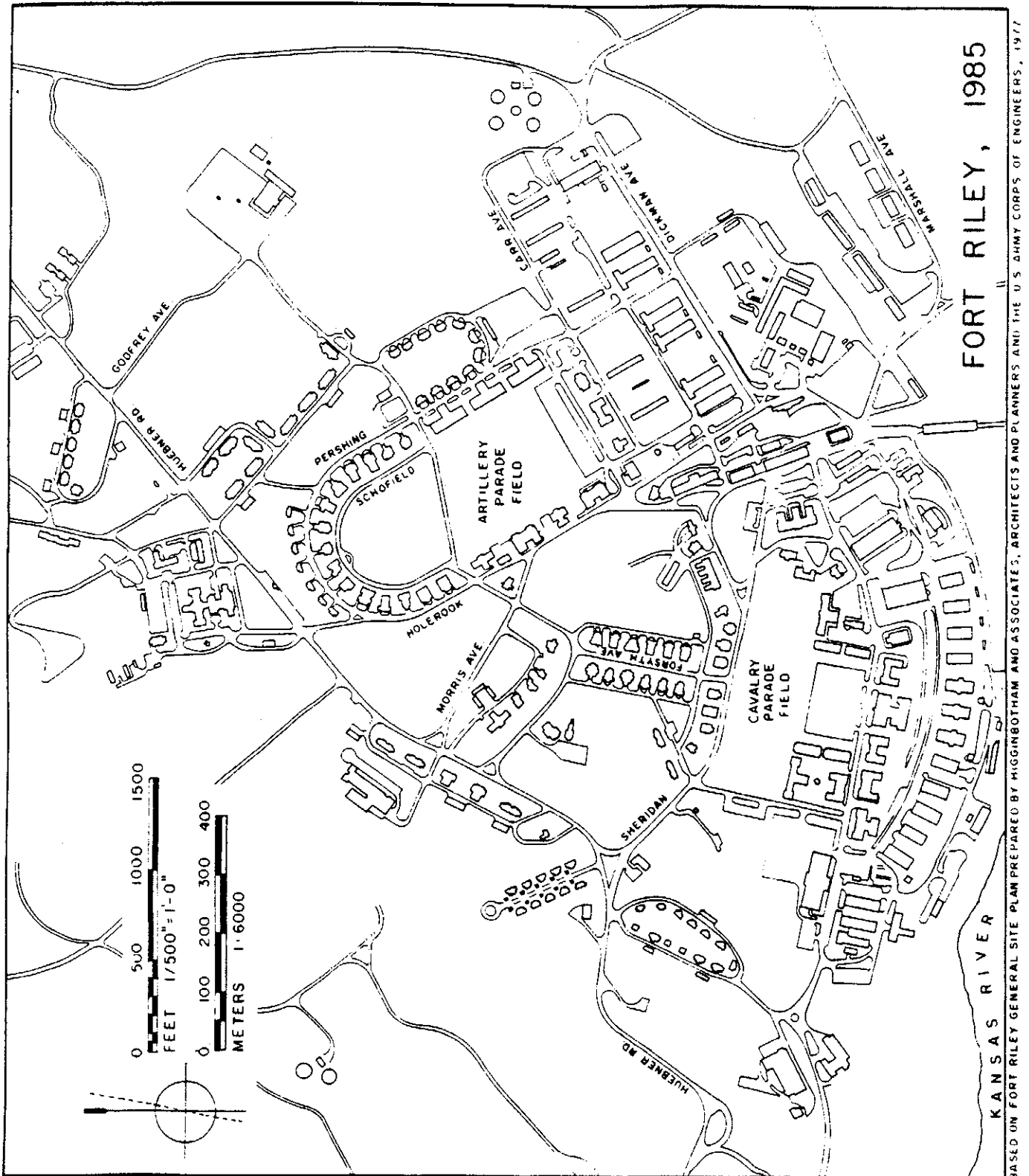


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BASEMENT PLAN  
Scale: 1/4 inch.

NOV. 11, 1925  
4 SHEETS PLAN OF SHEET #1 U FILE 20-14  
QUARTERS FOR FIRE CHIEF  
FORT RILEY, KANSAS.  
OFFICE OF CONSTRUCTING QUARTERMASTER  
Scale: 1/4 inch

5. Fort Riley, 1985



PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the National Park Service in agreement with the post commander of Fort Riley, Kansas and the headquarters of the United State Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C. The project was completed under the general supervision of Robert J. Kapsch, Chief of the HABS/HAER Division. Sally Kress Tompkins served as Program coordinator and Robie S. Lange as Project Leader. The Field Supervisor was James A. Glass (historian, Conrell University). The project Historians were Catherine Crawford (University of Maryland) and Joseph Rodriguez (University of California). Large format photography was conducted by Mike Whye. Documentation was prepared for transmittal to the Library of Congress by Catherine Crawford.